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THE WHITE HOUSE JOBS PROBLEM

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. A recent New York Times poll indicates 54 percent of the public believe the President does not have a clear plan for creating jobs. Clearly, the failed \$1 trillion stimulus plan created to keep unemployment below 8 percent shows the President's inability to lead. The dismal numbers come as the Democrats neglected to produce a budget and the majority leader announced the Democrats will raise taxes to pay for more government spending. I say: Cut government spending so you don't have to raise taxes.

While they should be focused on creating jobs, the Democrats have proven the only thing they can do well is tax and spend. Here's a novel idea that the American people know from personal experience: Stop spending money you don't have.

CONGRATULATING BRYCE HARPER

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Bryce Harper on being selected by the Washington Nationals as the first overall pick in the Major League Baseball draft.

Harper, a native of southern Nevada, who is just 17 years old, led the College of Southern Nevada and the Scenic West Athletic Conference in virtually every offensive category. In recognition of his outstanding performance, he was the SWAC 2010 Player of the Year and was named to the First Team AWC All-Conference team. During the 2010 season, he set a CSN school record for home runs. He belted 31, shattering the previous record of 12.

So, Madam Speaker, I look forward to welcoming Bryce to Washington and watching him play just down the street as he stars for the Nationals for years to come.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH TROOP FUNDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. The House should stop playing politics with troop funding. The money is being held up by liberal lawmakers so they can add billions of dollars to the so-called "stimulus" funds and special interest moneys to the troop funding package.

Partisan special interest moneys and a hodgepodge of wasteful spending has no place in a true funding bill. We need a clean bill that will pass easily so our

military operations will not be disrupted. Secretary Gates has warned us not to hold up this essential spending or else defense spending will suffer, meaning our troops will be at risk.

As a veteran with four sons in the military, nothing is more important to me than making sure our troops on the front lines receive the funding they need. With two counterinsurgency operations going on in Afghanistan and Iraq, it's highly irresponsible to hold this up any longer.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SAFETY OF CENSUS WORKERS

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, we should all be greatly concerned for the safety of our U.S. census workers. According to the Census Bureau, there have been 379 incidents involving threats and abuse towards census employees so far this year. That's more than double the violence that occurred during the last census in 2000, and there are still 3 weeks remaining in this year's census taking.

The reported incidents have consisted of robberies, assault, violent threats, being held against their will, and carjacking. They are doing very important work and getting paid very little for it. They should not be subjected to this kind of abusive treatment. Ironically, it is the work of census takers that will ensure that each American receives their fair share of Federal resources. They are performing a very important public service.

I'm afraid that this abuse may be directly tied to some of the antigovernment rhetoric that is coming from some people in this body and the Republican noise machine; in other words, Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, and countless other so-called "shock jocks." Rather than disparaging Federal employees, this body should be applauding the excellent and courageous work that they are performing.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT FIKE AND STAFF SERGEANT BRYAN HOOVER

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two sons of southwestern Pennsylvania who gave their lives to their country. While on patrol in Afghanistan, Sergeant First Class Robert Fike and Staff Sergeant Bryan Hoover were killed by a suicide bomber. They became the 35th and 36th members of the Pennsylvania National Guard to be killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sergeant Fike was described as "one of those guys you just liked instantly."

He graduated in 1989 from Penn-Trafford High School, joined the National Guard in 1993, and served in Panama, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. His experience in military as well as a State prison guard made him an excellent leader of the younger troops. It was said of him that the guys respected everything he said. They trusted and liked him.

Staff Sergeant Hoover graduated from Elizabeth Forward High School in 2000, where he was a standout athlete in track, football, and wrestling. He enlisted in the Marines and served in Iraq and then served in the Army Reserves before joining the National Guard. Back home, Bryan Hoover was an assistant track and cross country coach at Elizabeth Forward High School. He also volunteered to coach low-income children at the YMCA. While he is no longer with us, Bryan left a mark on his students. One described him as an "inspirational coach."

These two guardsmen were friends, having served together with the 28th Military Police Company in Iraq in 2007 and 2008. It was also their shared commitment to community and country that led them to join the military, where together they protected the reconstruction teams, building schools and infrastructure for the people of Afghanistan.

Hundreds gathered to pay their respects this past week for Sergeant Fike and Staff Sergeant Hoover as they were laid to rest. As we mourn with these families, we know there are two more heroes keeping watch over us from above. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank them for their service and sacrifice. May God bless their families and the country they loved.

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. A great deal of attention has been focused on the recent Rolling Stone article which resulted in the resignation of General Stanley McChrystal. But even more troublesome to me than the general's inappropriate remarks were the comments by senior military officials about the state of the war and the future of our involvement in Afghanistan, which seem to contradict what the Obama administration has told us. "If Americans pulled back and started paying attention to this war, it would become even less popular," a senior military adviser said. Another said, "Instead of beginning to withdraw troops next year, as Obama promised, the military hopes to ramp up its counterinsurgency campaign even further."

Madam Speaker, the American people and our troops deserve to know the truth about what we are doing in Afghanistan. We need clarity. We should have clarity before we bring up any war supplemental appropriations bill.